

poor and is disappointing. What are the reasons for that? What is the explanation? What is the reason for the poor achievement? For instance, about the TAX capacity, the shortfall was 50 per cent. The shortfall regarding the second item was 53.3 per cent. The shortfall regarding microwave system was 62.6 per cent. The shortfall regarding UHF system was 74.2 per cent.. (*Interruptions*) It is gradually increasing. What is the reason for it? There is slight improvement in the Seventh Plan period and I will come to it later

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV. It is a fact that in the Sixth Five-Year Plan the performance was not satisfactory. From the Sixth Five-Year Plan we tried to switch over to better technology and at the same time we started indigenisation of the product in our factories like ITI and BEL. Since the Sixth Five-Year Plan was the first year when we had this microwave system and the UHF system produced within our country, we had teething trouble, but, as you have also said, in the Seventh Five-Year Plan in the first two years it has improved and in the current year also the production is much better. Whenever you start a new technology and production is done within the country, there is bound to be some slippage. But we have taken corrective steps. I think, in the Seventh Plan we will be able to achieve our target for the Seventh Plan, and the backlog of the Sixth Five-Year Plan also will be covered.

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY. In the Seventh Plan period, for instance, in the year 1985-86, in microwave system the achievement was 2,304 R. Kms. but in the year 1986-87 the achievement is only 1701. What is the reason? And how is it that the Minister says that there is better performance in the Seventh Plan period?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV. Take, for instance, the microwave system. Suppose in the north-eastern area or in the Kashmir Valley or in Himachal Pradesh, we have to instal this; it is very difficult terrain. In certain places we have got the difficulty of acquiring land also; it is not

only equipment. Because of this, the installation process itself takes some time. In Nagaland as well as in Mizoram because of insurgency it becomes difficult sometimes to work in remote areas. So, these are the difficulties because of which we could not achieve. But in areas where there is no such difficulty, we have been able to instal. Now, normalcy is there in Mizoram, Nagaland as well as in Kashmir and I think we will be able to achieve the backlog that we have shown in the past year.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK. The Government of India has announced a policy that by the end of this Plan period every district district headquarter will be connected by the STD facility. But as far as achieving the target in the Sixth Five-Year Plan is concerned, the Government was far from achieving the target and during this Plan also it seems that it is falling short of the target. As far as UHF system is concerned, in the year 1985-86 the target was 1500 but the achievement was 1605. It was more than the target, but in 1986-87, the target was 1685 but the achievement was 1605, the same as in the previous year. This gives an impression that the Government has reached a static position—where the position is of no change. I feel that some urgent and necessary steps should be taken by the Government so that the targets can be fulfilled. Whether the Government has planned any steps in this direction or not should be made clear by the Government.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV. It is a good suggestion. We are always monitoring, and will continue to monitor, the progress.

Drilling By Oil India Limited In Bay of Bengal

*836. **SHRI PARAG CHALIHA.** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil wells drilled since 1981 by the Oil India Limited in Bay of Bengal basin;

(b) the number of oil wells abandoned before reaching the target depth

(c) the quantity of oil/gas discovered in this area

(d) the total cost involved in drilling in the Bay of Bengal basin by the Oil India Limited; and

(e) the future plans of the Oil India Limited for off-shore drilling in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Eight.

(b) Two.

(c) Favourable indications of presence of oil and gas were found in some of the wells but nothing of a commercial nature

(d) Around Rs 126 crores upto 31-3-1987.

(e) OIL plans to drill 4 exploratory wells in this area.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: The answer is very interesting: "there are favourable indications only but nothing of a commercial nature". As is well known, all these exploratory drillings are preceded by proper geological assessments. It is a apparent that proper geological assement in this particular case was not there. Whereas in the western offshore, we have had very substantial success, in the eastern sector it has not been so. Will the hon Minister inform us as to what are the main reasons for such an apparent wastage of Rs 126 crores in making eight drillings in the Bay of Bengal—just to produce nothing of any commercial nature. This is my first supplementary

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I would like to submit that exploration is a first step. Then exploitation is taken up when the commercial availability is established. The

data was processed and as I have said, the presence of Hydro-carbon was indicated. But later on it was found that it is not commercially viable. So, I cannot call it wastage because oil is not the commodity which can be produced in a factory with the help of certain raw materials. We have to explore, then we have to go deeper and deeper and we have to try and when commercially it is available, we have to go for exploitation. It is a matter of luck.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: A big sum of 126 crores of rupees was spent up to 31-3-87. It produced nothing of commercial nature. Sir, I have to go deep in the matter. Anyway, is it a fact that a number of very capable and experienced Geologists were transferred from the Oil India Headquarters in Duliajan during the last six years? Is it also a fact that all this has been the effect of reckless spending, reckless utilisation of public money and reckless drilling just to show that under the present management of OIL, they are doing very much in terms of production?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, I think the Hon Member knows much more than myself about OIL. All these facts have been brought to my notice several times and I checked it up. I have not found it to be of something. In oil exploration, you have to spend money. Even if these four wells which are being explored are proposed to be drilled and even if one well results in the availability of oil or gas that will cover up everything.

SHRI K S RAO: Sir, from the answer given by the Hon Minister, as Shri Parag was telling, 126 crores of rupees has been spent only to find out whether there is oil or not. I just wish to know from the Hon Minister whether it is because of not adopting the latest technology available in the advanced countries or is it a case in other countries also where oil is explored in a similar manner and hundreds and thousands of crores is being spent to explore? I just wish to know from the Hon Minister if there is latest technology? Will they make any effort to bring the latest

technology to avoid the expenditure only in exploration and surveys?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: We are having this and it is the experience everywhere when they go on drilling and drilling. In Russia there is a place where they have practically drilled half but nothing has been found. But there are certain places where accidentally something was drilled and oil was struck. It is a matter of luck. This work was started in 1978 and the technology available at that time was being used but now we are using latest technology we will be going more deeper and we will have more results.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Nobody objects to the amount being spent on exploration provided the data and the figures indicate that there is possibility of availability of commercially viable crude. Now, already 8 wells were drilled and the information is that no indication of availability of commercially viable crude oil is there. In view of that, may I know the reasons for further exploration of 4 oil wells? Has there been any positive indication which may lead to the conclusion that there will be further exploration of 4 oil wells?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: We cannot abandon our effort only if 8 wells do not yield oil or gas on commercial basis. We have to go on doing it and by analysing the latest data, the four new wells are supposed to yield oil or gas on commercial basis. But I again submit that the first step is that we do seismic survey by using the latest technology available, then we do drilling. Now drilling has also got so many forms—horizontal drilling, vertical drilling, and drilling at an angle. This has to go on

Indo-U.S. Joint Venture Industrial Unit in Goa

*837. **SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are consider-

ing any proposal for an Indo-U.S. joint venture industrial unit in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of the proposals which have yet to be examined by the Government and on which decisions have not yet been taken are not revealed in the public interest.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I have asked a question regarding the proposed Indo-Soviet industrial ventures in Goa. Since the answer has not been given, as in the public interest this matter has not been revealed, I would like to know with respect to all foreign collaboration industrial units whether there is a policy to maintain secrecy of the proposals as a rule. I would like to know whether there is a policy as a matter of rule to maintain secrecy with respect to all proposals.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it Indo-US or Indo-Soviet venture?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: As far as our Department is concerned, we are maintaining the secrecy.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: At least would you tell the House taking it into confidence because it is an industrial unit after all as to what is the nature of the unit and in which part of Goa the same is proposed to be set up?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: We have received two proposals. Firstly from M/s Economic Development Corporation of Goa, Daman and Diu Ltd., for foreign collaboration with M/s. Media Engineering U.S.A. for the manufacture of Video Magnetic Tapes, Secondly from M/s. Spencor Filtration Pvt. Ltd., Bombay for foreign